

## House Resolution No. 3479

**Whereas**, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize the Board of Regents of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, who are to be commended for their efforts to lower the tuition costs for students; and

**Whereas**, in recent years, Southeast Missouri State University suffered significant budget reductions in state appropriations due to serious state revenue shortfalls, as the University's base budget for FY2004 was \$8.2 million lower than the base budget for FY2001; and

**Whereas**, in order to demonstrate wise stewardship and to keep student fees as affordable as possible, the University undertook a review of all academic and non-academic programs, which resulted in permanent personnel reductions made in FY2003 and FY2004 that affected thirty-two staff positions and fourteen faculty positions in addition to base budget reductions of \$2.2 million; and

**Whereas**, despite these cost-saving efforts, maintenance of quality of academic programs and services to students, as well as the need to rebuild a rainy day fund depleted by the extraordinary withholding of May 2002, required that the University raise incidental fees for fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005; and

**Whereas**, in approving the FY2005 fees prior to approval of the state budget for FY2005, including a net increase of \$4 per credit hour, the Board of Regents determined that if state appropriations for that year were higher than the appropriations for FY2004, the incidental fee increase would be scaled back; and

**Whereas**, thanks to a \$1 million increase approved in FY2005 appropriations, the administration has recommended that the Board of Regents approve a reduction of \$2 per credit hour, effective in the Spring of 2005, at its meeting on June 30, 2004; and

**Whereas**, it is expected that the reduction in student costs will help to maintain access to affordable and quality higher education for students in the 25-county Southeast Missouri State University service region:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty and robust congratulations to Southeast Missouri State University President Ken Dobbins at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction, and in wishing him only the very best as he continues his efforts to reduce the cost of tuition for students; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Kenneth W. "Ken" Dobbins, as a mark of our esteem for him.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Rod Jetton  
Speaker Pro Tem  
District No. 156

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Representative Jason G. Crowell  
Majority Floor Leader  
District No. 158

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Representative Scott A. Lipke  
District No. 157

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 3479, adopted June 23, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker